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Chinese strongly objects to being looked at through glasses, and the native wearing spectacles who does not remove them when a visitor comes into his room would be thought very rude. The Chinese accuse us of morbid unrest; they say we do not live, because we are so intent upon increasing the means of living that we are always discontented. How can we put either milk or sugar in our tea when they destroy bouquet and flavour? The writer goes below the surface of many things Chinese, and we are not only introduced to the aspect of life among them but also learn something of the philosophy which underlies their doings and prejudices.

**Heroes of Discovery in America.** By Charles Morris. 344 pp., 12 Illustrations. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1906. (Price, \$1.35.)

Unfortunately, this book seems to have been prepared without the geographical instinct that seizes upon the most significant and vital facts and without sufficient striving after accuracy. An author who presents Robert E. Peary and Roald Amundsen, at present the most-talked-of Arctic travellers, as "Robert B. Peary" and "Roald Amundsen" has only himself to blame if his facts are thought to have been compiled with inadequate care. Such statements as this: "Amundsen forced his vessel across the Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific" are of little value. Whereabouts was this channel he followed? For any intimation this book gives about the matter Amundsen's route might have been north instead of far south of McClure's.

**The Euahlayi Tribe. A Study of Aboriginal Life in Australia.** By K. Langloh Parker. With an Introduction by Andrew Lang. xxvii and 156 pp., 6 Illustrations, Glossary and Index. Archibald Constable & Company, Ltd., London, 1905. (Price, 7s. 6d.)

Mrs. Parker's contribution to the study of the manners, beliefs, and legends of the Australian aborigines is the result of her observation from childhood of the Euahlayi tribe in the northwestern part of New South Wales. She had unequalled opportunities for the study of the women and children, in which respect the male scientific observer is usually at a great disadvantage. The Australian natives are regarded "as the most backward of mankind, having no agriculture, no domestic animals, and no knowledge of metal-working. Their weapons and implements are of wood, stone, and bone, and they have not even the rudest kind of pottery. But though the natives are all, in their natural state, on or about this common low level, their customary laws, ceremonials, and beliefs are rich in variety."

None of Mrs. Parker's informants had ever been under the influence of missionaries, and yet these primitive people, in a limited and modified form, hold a belief in reincarnation, and have other ideas and usages that are deserving of close study. Mrs. Parker's intimate acquaintance with them gave her a great advantage in collecting their legends. She says that if the inquiring white is a stranger a legend will be told him as quickly as possible, and in a half-contemptuous way, as much as to say, "What do you want to know such rubbish for?" But if the native *raconteur* knows the visitor well, and feels that he is really interested, the stories will be told as he would tell them to his family, giving them a new life and adding considerably to their poetical expression.

Mrs. Parker has some unusual advice for missionaries. She believes that before they go out to teach they should acquaint themselves with the making of

the world's religions and particularly with the one they are going to supplant. They will probably find that elimination of some savagery is all that is required, leaving enough good to form a workable religion that will be understood by their barbarous pupils:

If the missionary ignores their faith, thrusting his own, with its mysteries which puzzle even theologians, upon them, they will be but as whited sepulchres or, at best, parrots.

**Old Maps and Map Makers of Scotland.** By **John E. Shearer.** viii and 86 pp., Illustrations, Maps and Index. R. S. Shearer & Son, Stirling, 1905. (Price, 10s.)

This handsome volume describes a large number of maps of Scotland from the time of Strabo, about 20 B.C. to 1832. Strabo was the first to map that region; but he showed it as an island—a mistake that was committed by many later map-makers. Ptolemy's map of 150 A.D. did not show Scotland as a separate island, but this mistake was very common on maps of the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The author produces, chiefly on a small scale, twelve of the early maps, the most important of which are those of Ortelius in 1570 and Robert Gordon in 1653. The map published by Ortelius was the first printed map of Scotland.

**Chronicles of London. Edited with Introduction and Notes by Charles L. Kingsford.** xlviii and 368 pp., Appendix and Index. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1905. (Price, 10s. 6d.)

The introduction contains an account of the various Chronicles of London which were compiled by aldermen or other citizens from about the twelfth century and gradually lengthened and became more important in the following centuries. Together they cover a period of 320 years—from 1189 to 1509. This book contains the most detailed account of the Chronicles yet printed and the text of three of them. The critical and explanatory text is very full, and the Chronicles are now presented to historical students in convenient and edifying form. The Notes deal chiefly with matters illustrating the history of London or the text of the Chronicles, and the Glossary explains archaic or obsolete words and those that are used in an uncommon way. These three Chronicles are typical specimens of the English language in a transition state, and illustrate its progressive development from archaic passages in the Cleopatra Chronicle to the most modern part of Vitellius, written in the opening years of the sixteenth century. A photographic reproduction of Ryther's map of 1604, one of the oldest plans of the city, forms the frontispiece.

**La France. Par P. Vidal de la Blache et P. Camena d'Almeida.** (Eighth Edition.) xxx and 543 pp., 23 Maps and Index. Armand Colin, Paris, 1905. (Price, 3.25 fr.)

A school book that was in its sixth edition in 1904 and reached its eighth in the following year evidently fills a need. The book differs much from our geographical text-books, and is more like our geographical readers, excepting that there is no special effort to "write down" to the level of the grammar grades. The forms of the land, hydrography, climate, industries, settlements, etc., in each geographical division are fused, as it were, into a well-compacted narrative with a kind of rounding off of the abrupt transitions which make so many text books very dull. At the end of each chapter is a "revision" or summary of its